



Perry County Food Bank

300A South Carlisle Street
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
Phone: 717-582-9978 • Fax: 717-582-9979
E-mail: pcfoodbank@perryco.org
Website: www.perrycountyfoodbank.org
Like us at [FaceBook.com/perrycountyfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/perrycountyfoodbank)



March, 2016

"Help someone who can't return the favor." -- Author Unknown

Punxsutawney Phil, the Seer of Seers, Prognosticator of All Prognosticators, was awakened from his burrow on the morning of February 2nd, ventured outside and did not see his shadow. His prediction:

"Is this current warm weather more than a trend? Per chance this winter has come to an end?"

There is no shadow to be cast, an early Spring is my forecast!"

(It would appear as we write this that the rotund little whistle pig may have actually gotten it right this year!)

Certainly an early end to winter allows those using the food bank to free up money used for heating and allow it to be channeled over to the food budget. About this time of year, we see our overall numbers drop a little from the highs of the holidays and the dead of winter in January. It is always interesting to us that the number of new people who sign up to use the food bank stays pretty steady, around 30-40 each month, while our overall numbers tend to remain the same. We conclude from this that people sign up to use the food bank as a last resort when there is no food in the house and as soon as circumstances allow, they stop coming in and go back to being more self-sufficient.

February saw 1,195 families and 2,888 people use food bank resources. There were 39 new families who signed up. In January, the numbers were 1,251 families, 3,101 people and 46 new families.

It is always interesting to both of us to watch God at work in our everyday operations. We have had a number of things recently that reminded us of who our Boss is and just what He can do if we let Him. A good example of this was a recent phone call from Snyder's UM Church wanting to donate hams to us for our customer's Easter dinners. At the time of the call, Karns had hams for 99¢ a pound. While Linda was on the phone, John checked with the Central PA Food Bank and found that, just within the previous hour, they listed hams available for 18¢ a pound. We were able to get almost six times as many hams for the same money. It reminded us of the story of the fishes and loaves and feeding the 5,000 with a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread which were multiplied dramatically.

We continue to be out speaking with groups in the community. We have been sharing with the Church of the Nativity, the Greenwood FFA at their meal-packing event, at Reward and Salem United Methodist churches and will be with the Shermans Dale Lions Club in March. If you are looking for a speaker for your group or just want us to come and share with you about the food bank and what is happening currently, feel free to contact us at our phone number or email address, which are listed above.

The legislature and the governor have worked out some of the budget problems and we have received our funding from the State Food Purchase Program. It allows us to take care of our obligations to the Central PA Food Bank, which graciously extended credit to us and allowed us to operate without major financial headaches during the budget crisis in Harrisburg.

We have been blessed with abundant quantities of food at very reasonable prices (sometimes free), which we have been able to pass on to our customers. It is one way that we hope to allow our customers to have a little sense of normalcy in one area of their lives when many are in the midst of major crises.

We thank all of you for your trust and faithful support of what we do. We are both humbled by the outpouring of love, that we see everyday, which you have for our neighbors in need.

Linda Bates & John Kiner
Co-directors, Perry County Food Bank